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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: GULF OIL PAYMENTS TO ITALY

REF: STATE 287140

- 1. SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE NAMED BY GULF OIL HAS FILED 298-PAGE REPORT WITH THE SEC. EXTENSIVE ARTICLES IN ALL MORNING PAPERS. POST SAYS ONLY THAT ADDITIONAL PAYOFFS DISCOVERED BY MCCLOY REVIEW COMMITTEE INCLUDED ITALY. TIMES SAYS ONLY THAT REPORT INDICATES A QUOTE FONDO NERO UNQUOTE IN ITALY FROM WHICH GULF PAID 10,815 DOLLARS TO NEWSPAPERS, EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS.
- 2. LONGER ACCOUNT IN WALL STREET JOURNAL CONTAINS FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ON ITALY: QUOTE IN ITALY, GULF MADE PAYMENTS TOTALLING 627,000 DOLLARS TO THREE PUBLISHING CONCERNS THAT IN EFFECT CONSTITUTED POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, THE REPORT SAID. THE NEWSPAPERS THAT RECEIVED THE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE EITHER OWNED BY, OR AFFILIATED WITH, VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH WERE THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES OF THE PAYMENTS, THE REPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATED. THE PARTIES WERE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

AND THE SOCIALISTS. THE REPORT NOTED THAT ALL OIL-PRODUCT PRICES IN ITALY ARE SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COMMITTEE SAID IT DECIDED TO CLASSIFY TWO OTHER ITALIAN TRANSACTIONS AS PAYMENTS MADE IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS. ONE WAS A PAYMENT OF 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THROUGHPUT RIGHTS IN AN OIL PIPELINE OWNED BY THE ITALIAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY. THE OTHER WAS A PAYMENT OF 868,653 DOLLARS TO ANDERGIP S.A., A PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONSULTING FIRM WITH ADDRESSES IN SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN, FOR AIDING GULF IN OVERCOMING OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION OF ITS REFINERY IN MILAN IN 1973. UNQUOTE END ROBINSON

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